

インペスター



6

三田紀房

少年漫画の神様

















DAD... IS
THERE
ANOTHER
SIDE TO
YOU I
DON'T
KNOW?



HE TURNED
DOWN UNCLE
KAZUYOSHI SO
VEHEMENTLY.
BUT NOW...



...NOW HE'S
CURIOUS
ABOUT
STOCKS.



I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
HAD THIS
OTHER
SIDE.



SO
THAT'S
HOW
IT IS,
DAD.





OH..
I SEE.



...I'VE
DECIDED
TO
INHERIT
THEM,
AFTER
ALL.

THOSE
STOCKS
HE TALKED
ABOUT THE
LAST TIME
HE CAME..



I
THOUGHT
I WOULD
ASK YOU
STRAIGHT
OUT
ABOUT IT.

SO THE
QUESTION
IS WHAT TO
DO WITH THE
PORTION LEFT
FOR YOU IN
THE WILL,
TAKASHI.



YOU'RE
SPRINGING
THIS ON
ME SO
SUDDENLY..



...STUDY
ABOUT
STOCKS
SO YOU
CAN
DISCUSS
THEM WITH
YOUR
UNCLE.

THERE'S
STILL
TIME,
SO..



BUT
YOU'RE
OLD
ENOUGH
TO THINK
CLEARLY
AND MAKE
DECISIONS.

I'M
SURE YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO WITH
STOCKS
AT YOUR
AGE.

AND I GOT
YOU THIS FOR
REFERENCE.

STOCKS AND
INVESTMENTS GUIDE

LUCRATIVE
INVESTMENTS, MUSTING

THIS IS A
LIST OF
THE STOCKS
YOU OWN,
THEIR
CURRENT
VALUES,
AND TOTAL
WORTH.

THANK
YOU.

THINK
OF IT AS AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO STUDY AN
ASPECT OF
SOCIETY; IT
WILL BE GOOD
EXPERIENCE FOR
THE FUTURE.

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO THINK
ABOUT
MONEY,
TAKASHI,
BUT THIS
TIME IS AN
EXCEPTION.

SO
THAT'S
ALL IT
WAS.

ALL
RIGHT.



THEN
UNCLE
KAZUYOSHI
CAME TO
VISIT ON
SUNDAY.



THE
INHERITANCE
PAPERWORK
WAS FINISHED,
AND MY FATHER
AND I BECAME
THE OFFICIAL
SUCCESSORS.

HE HAD
CHANGED THE
NAME OF THE
OWNER OF THE
STOCKS HELD
IN THE
BROKERAGE
ACCOUNT.



WE
BROTHERS
GOT TO SEE
EACH OTHER
BECAUSE OF
ALL THIS.

NO,
NO.



THAT'S
ONE WORRY
RESOLVED.
NOW MY DUTY
IS DONE.

THANK
YOU FOR
EVERY-
THING.



IT
SHOULD
COME IN
HANDY
IN YOUR
FUTURE,
TAKASHI-
KUN.

THEY TOOK
OUT A LOT
FOR THE
GIFT TAX,
BUT THERE'S
STILL
NOTHING
TO LOSE
BY KEEPING
WHAT
YOU'VE
GOT.







HOWEVER,
THEY SAID
THAT THE
COST HAS
GONE UP, DUE
TO INCREASING
ORDERS, SO
THERE'S NOT
MUCH OF A
PROFIT
MARGIN.



ANYTHING
CONNECTED
TO EXPORT IS
CURRENTLY
WORSENING.

ANYTHING
CONNECTED TO
CONSTRUCTION
IS CURRENTLY
SHOWING
PROMISE.



I
SUPPOSE
IT WOULD
DEPEND
ON THE
NAME BRAND.
MAYBE SMALL
COMPANIES
WOULD BE
BEST.

WHAT ABOUT
TRANSPORTATION
STOCKS?
THERE'S AN
INCREASE OF
COMMODITIES
BEING PRODUCED,
SO THEY
MIGHT GO ON
THE RISE.



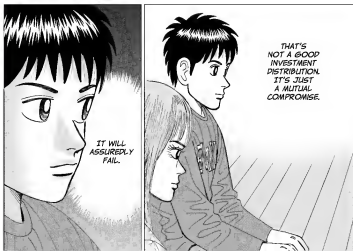
WHEN DID
MY FATHER
LEARN SO
MUCH
ABOUT
STOCKS?

WHAT'S
WITH THESE
TWO?
THEY'RE
GETTING
FIRED UP.



BUT HE
REALLY
GETS INTO
IT WHEN
HE TALKS
ABOUT
STOCKS.

AND HERE I
THOUGHT MY
UNCLE KAZUYOSHI
WAS A JUST
LEVEL-HEADED
MAN WHO TAUGHT
UNIVERSITY
AFTER RETIRING
FROM A MAJOR
CORPORATION.





CONCLUSIONS
THAT ARE
REACHED BY THE
DISCUSSIONS OF
OUTSTANDING
PEOPLE
ARE QUITE
WORTHLESS.



HUH..?



DOES
THAT
SOUND
OKAY
TO YOU,
TAKASHI?



WELL,
THIS
SHOULD
DO...

EXCUSE
ME.

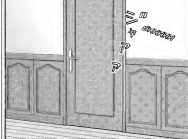


NOT NOW..
IT WOULDN'T
BE GOOD TO
ANSWER

I HAVE
TO GO
TO THE
BATH-
ROOM.



IT'S
EXACTLY AS
KAMISHIRO-SAN
SAID. JUST
BECAUSE
OUTSTANDING
PEOPLE DISCUSS
SOMETHING, THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
THEY'LL REACH
A GOOD
CONCLUSION.



IF THEY
BOTH FAIL,
THEY WILL
BLAME EACH
OTHER
FOR IT.

THE
INVESTMENTS
OF THOSE
TWO ARE 100%
GUARANTEED
TO FAIL.



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



THE
RELATIONSHIP
OF BROTHERS
WHO HAVEN'T
SEEN EACH OTHER
IN DECADES WILL
BE RUINED, BUT
HOW CAN I STOP
THAT FROM
HAPPENING?

IF THEY
GO AHEAD
BASED
ON THEIR
REASONING,
THEY'RE
BOUND
TO FAIL!



MY
DAD AND
UNCLE'S
STOCK
INVESTMENT
PLAN.

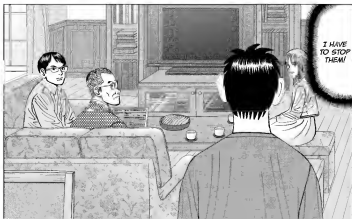
カッ
ク
カ
カ



THEY
MUSTN'T!



I HAVE
TO STOP
THEM!













WHAT...



DAD...

THOSE
ARE MY
STOCKS.
I WANT TO
INVEST IN
MY OWN
STOCKS.



TAKASHI.



I WAS
READING THE
BOOK YOU
GAVE ME, DAD.
STOCKS SURE
LOOK LIKE
FUN.

I WANT
TO LEARN
HOW TO
WHEEL-AND-
DEAL WITH
THOSE
THINGS.

...WHILE
RICH PEOPLE
MAKE MONEY
WORK FOR
THEM, THAT'S
THE TRUTH OF
OUR SOCIETY.

THE BOOK
EXPLAINS
THAT POOR
PEOPLE
WORK TO
MAKE
MONEY...

I'M
GOING TO
LET MONEY
WORK FOR ME
WITHOUT ME
HAVING TO
WORK. I WANT
TO USE THE
SYSTEM TO SIT
BACK AND
ENJOY LIFE!

IT'S
STUPID TO
LIVE LIFE BY
WORKING
FROM THE
SWEAT
OF ONE'S
BROW.

I WANT TO
MAKE ALL THE
DECISIONS AND
STOCKPILE A
FORTUNE!

SO I WON'T
INVOLVE
MYSELF IN
YOUR
BUYING AND
SELLING.







YOU
SHOULD
FOCUS ON
ACADEMICS
FOR A
WHILE
AND LAY
LOW.



...MY
DAD WILL
NEVER
TALK TO
ME ABOUT
MONEY
AGAIN.



...WHEN DID YOU
REALIZE YOU
SHOULD NEVER
SELL STOCKS
BASED ON
DISCUSSIONS
WITH OTHERS?

BY THE
WAY...



THE
MIRROR?



WHEN
I WENT
TO THE
BATH-
ROOM...

...AND
SAW
MYSELF
IN THE
MIRROR.



"DISCUSS
WITH
YOURSELF,
AND MAKE
YOUR
OWN
DECISION!"

"YOU ARE
THE ONE
WHO MUST
MAKE THE
DECISION!"



IT MADE
ME FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE
WATCHING
MY FATHER
AND UNCLE
DISCUSSING
STOCK
BRANDS.



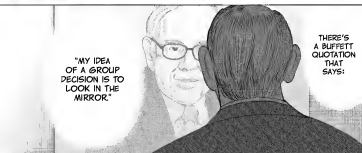
I FELT
THAT
BEYOND
THAT LAY
FAILURE.

THEY WERE
ABOUT TO MAKE
AN IMPORTANT
DECISION, AND
YET THEY WERE
ONLY CONCERNED
ABOUT REACHING
AN AGREEMENT.



"YOU
MUSTN'T
DECIDE
THINGS
BASED ON
WHAT
OTHERS
SAY!"

WHEN I SAW
MY REFLECTION
IN THE MIRROR
IN THE
BATHROOM, I
THOUGHT...





...WITH
KAMISHIRO-
SAN ABOUT
GATHERING
MANY
OUTSTANDING
PEOPLE
INSTEAD OF
WORKING
INDIVIDUALLY?

YOU
MEAN
WHEN
YOU
ARGUED...



I WAS
WRONG.

YES.



BUT AS A
RESULT, I NOW
KNOW WHY
DOJUKU'S
INVESTMENT
CLUB MAKES
INVESTMENTS
WITH ONLY A
SMALL NUMBER
OF MEMBERS,
ONE FROM
EACH GRADE.



CONCLUSIONS
THAT ARE
REACHED BY THE
DISCUSSIONS OF
OUTSTANDING
PEOPLE
ARE QUITE
WORTHLESS.



IT'S
JUST AS
KAMISHIRO-
SAN SAID.



THE MORE
OUTSTANDING
A PERSON IS,
THE MORE
CAREFULLY
THEIR
OPINIONS ARE
CONSIDERED.



THEY MAKE
HALF-BAKED
DECISIONS IN
THE SPIRIT
OF MUTUAL
AGREEMENT,
INTEGRATING
EVERYONE'S
OPINIONS.

THE
JAPANESE
PEOPLE ARE
ESPECIALLY
LIKE THAT.



IF PEOPLE
INTEGRATED
OPINIONS
FROM OTHER
BUSINESSES,
THEY COULD
NEVER DESIGN
ANY DEFINITIVE
PLANS

OUR
COUNTRY'S
BUSINESS
DYNAMIC
IS BASED
ON THAT
MODEL.



THEY
HOLD ONE
MEANINGLESS,
FUTILE
CONFERENCE
AFTER ANOTHER
ON A DAILY
BASIS.

NATURALLY,
PRIVATE
ENTERPRISES
ARE THE
SAME WAY.



FOR
EXAMPLE,
A BUNCH OF
MIDDLE-AGED
MEN GATHER
TO DECIDE ON
SWEETS.



THE SCENE
OF NEW-HIRE
INTERVIEWS
INCLUDES THE
ENTIRE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
EXCEPT THE
PRESIDENT ALL
LINED UP AT
THE DESK.

THIS KIND OF
SITUATION IS
UNHEARD OF IN
OTHER COUNTRIES
ACROSS THE WORLD.
DECISIONS ARE MADE
OVERSEAS
INDIVIDUALLY BY
A MANAGER
OR BY A VERY
SMALL NUMBER OF
MANAGERIAL-LEVEL
PEOPLE.





EVERYONE
BECOMES
EQUALLY
LIABLE.

SINCE THERE
IS NO ONE
LEADER WHO
MADE THE
DECISION,
THERE IS NO
ONE TO BLAME
IN CASE OF
FAILURE.



...IS A
WAY OF
SHIRKING
PERSONAL
RESPON-
SIBILITY.

THIS
JAPANESE
CHARACTER-
ISTIC OF
EVERYONE
DISCUSSING
AND
DECIDING...



THEIR SOLE
CONCERN IS TO
GET THROUGH
THEIR JOB
WITHOUT ANY
PROBLEMS.

SO MANAGERS
IN POSITIONS OF
RESPONSIBILITY
WANT TO KEEP
AS LOW A
PROFILE AS
POSSIBLE
WHILE THEY
SERVE
IN THAT
CAPACITY.



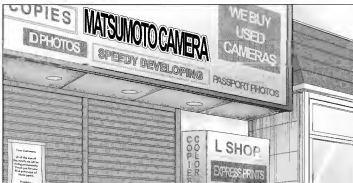
I WONDER
IF JAPAN IS
ALL OUT OF
CHARISMATIC
PRESIDENTS...

...ONES
WHO AREN'T
SALESMEN,
BUT ARE
GENUINE
MANAGERIAL
PROS.



...IS
BECAUSE
OF ITS
INCREASING
CULTIVATION
OF THOSE
KINDS OF
SALESMAN-
PRESIDENTS.

THE BIGGEST
REASON WHY
THE HEALTH
OF JAPANESE
BUSINESS IS
WEAKENING...





I USED
TO COME
HERE
IN THE
PAST.



THIS
CAMERA
STORE IS
CLOSING...



THE
PROPRIETOR
WAS SUCH
A KIND
AND NICE
PERSON.

THEY'D
DEVELOP
FILM FOR
US...



I GUESS
HE FELL
BEHIND
THE
TIMES...



BUT SALES
MUST HAVE
DROPPED
SINCE
PHOTOS
WENT
DIGITAL.



HE
SHOULD'VE
RECOGNIZED
THE TRENDS
AND ADAPTED
TO SURVIVE
OR
SOMETHING.



BUT
MAYBE THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE FOR
A SMALL TOWN
STORE...



THERE WAS
A PERSON WHO
USED TO OWN A
CAMERA STORE,
AND THEN BECAME
A BIG BUSINESS
MANAGER.

A CAMERA
STORE?



GOSH...
WHO WAS
IT...

...OF
JAPANET
TAKATA!

PRESIDENT
TAKATA
AKIRA...



PRESIDENT
TAKATA
USED TO
BE...

THAT'S
HIM! THE
SELF-MADE
PRESIDENT!



TAKATA CAMERAS

MINI-MINI COLOR DEVELOPER - 0356-30-XXXX

HE
STARTED FROM
MANAGING
A SMALL
CAMERA SHOP
IN TOWN.

MINI-MINI
COLOR TV

SONY

TELE COMMUNICATIONS

PRESIDENT
TAKATA
AKIRA OF
JAPANET
TAKATA



...AND NOW
HE'S THE
MANAGER
OF A 150
BILLION YEN
A YEAR TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY!







JAPANET
TAKATA WAS
ORIGINALLY
A CAMERA
SHOP CALLED
"TAKATA
CAMERA" IN
SASEBO.



ONE
CLUE LIES IN
PRESIDENT
TAKATA HAVING
HELPED
HIS CAMERA
SHOP FAMILY
BUSINESS.

HOW DID A SMALL,
PRIVATE SHOP
GROW TO BECOME
A MAJOR TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY?



...THE MEANING
OF "WHAT
BUSINESS IS."

WHILE PRESIDENT
TAKATA WAS
WORKING AS
A "TOURISM
PHOTOGRAPHER,"
HE CAME TO UNDERSTAND...



HIS JOB
WAS TO PHOTO-
GRAPH
THE
GUESTS.

PRESIDENT TAKATA
MADE JAINTS TO
HOTEL BANQUET
HALLS WHERE THEY
HELD PARTIES
FOR TRAVELING
EMPLOYEES, AS
WELL AS SOCIAL
GATHERINGS.



PRESIDENT
TAKATA SOLD
MORE PHOTOS
THAN OTHERS
WHO DID THE
SAME WORK; THE
KEY WAS HIS
OWN UNIQUE
SECRET.

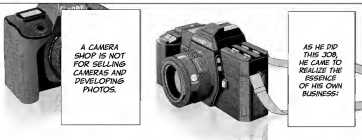
HE WOULD
DEVELOP
THE PHOTOS
OVERNIGHT,
AND PRESENT
THEM DURING
BREAKFAST
THE NEXT DAY.



GUESTS WHO WERE
LOOKING DOWN IN
THE PICTURES
WOULDN'T BUY THEIR
PHOTOS, SO HE
FIGURED OUT A WAY
TO HAVE THEM TALK
TOWARD THE LENS
WHILE HE SNAPPED
THEIR PICTURES
THAT WAS AN
IMPORTANT ELEMENT.



90% OF
PRESIDENT
TAKATA'S
PHOTOS WERE
OF GUESTS
LOOKING AT THE
CAMERA, SO HIS
CUSTOMERS
WOULD GLADLY
BUY THEM.



A CAMERA
SHOP IS NOT
FOR SELLING
CAMERAS AND
DEVELOPING
PHOTOS.

AS HE DID
THIS JOB,
HE CAME TO
REALIZE THE
ESSENCE
OF HIS OWN
BUSINESS:



THAT
WAS WHAT
HE CAME TO
REALIZE
THROUGH
THE HAPPY
FACES IN THE
PHOTOS HE
TOOK.

ITS
PURPOSE IS
TO SATISFY
CUSTOMERS;
THAT IS
BUSINESS!

HE WENT ON A
RADIO SHOPPING
SHOW WITH
NABASAKI
BROADCASTING.
HE WAS
FEATURED FOR
ONLY FIVE
MINUTES, AND
SOLD 50
COMPACT
CAMERAS.

OPPORTUNITY
CAME TO HIM IN
1990, WHICH
LED HIM AWAY
FROM HELPING
THE FAMILY
BUSINESS.

"THIS IS A SERVICE
THAT PLEASES MANY
CUSTOMERS, LET'S
EXPAND IT." SAYING
THAT, HE GOT OTHER
RADIO STATIONS
INVOLVED, AND WITHIN
A YEAR, HE HAD
ORGANIZED A
NATIONWIDE RADIO
NETWORK.

PRESIDENT TAKATA
WAS SHOCKED BY
THE RADIO'S POWER
OF INFLUENCE. THUS
HE WENT INTO RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS AS
HIS LINE OF WORK.

IN 1999, THE
BUSINESS CHANGED
ITS NAME TO JAPANET
TAKATA, ITS CURRENT
NAME. THE BUSINESS
ALSO EXPANDED TO
CATALOGUE-BASED
SALES AND THE
INTERNET IN 2000. BY
THEN, ITS BUSINESS
MODEL HAD GROWN
TO RESEMBLE THE
ONE IT STILL USES.

FOUR
YEARS
LATER,
HIS TELE-
COMMUNICA-
TIONS
BUSINESS
WENT TO
LIVE TV.

...WHEN I
COMPARE THAT
MAN WHO OWNED
THE CAMERA
STORE, THE ONLY
IMPRESSION I
HAD OF HIM WAS
THAT HE KNEW A
LOT ABOUT
CAMERAS.



THERE IS NO
BUSINESS
GROWTH IF
THE ONLY
FOCUS IS
SELLING
MERCHANDISE.



I SEE...



IN TERMS
OF THAT...

...IS MERELY
A MATTER OF
A SLIGHT
DIFFERENCE IN
THINKING!



WHEN I COMPARE
THE LIVES OF
THOSE TWO
PEOPLE, I REALIZE
THAT THE
CROSSROADS OF
SUCCESS OR
FAILURE...



...WHETHER THEY
HAVE PRINCIPLES
OR FAITH IN THEIR
LINE OF WORK,
THAT'S ALL.

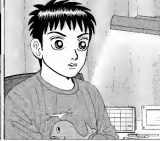


IT IS A
MATTER
OF...





RYUGORO...



THAT IS
WHAT WE
BELIEVE.

MAKING
MONEY IS
THAT WHICH
WILL BRING
PROSPERITY
TO THIS
NATION'S
FUTURE.



...THAT KIND
OF FAITH IN
INVESTING.



I
WONDER
IF I
HAVE...





YOUR
GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER?



BY
THE WAY,
I HEARD
UNCLE
KAZUYOSHI
TALKING
THE OTHER
DAY...

...ABOUT
MY GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER.
I DIDN'T
GET HIS
NAME.
DO YOU
KNOW IT,
MOM?

YEAH...



DAD'S
GRAND-
FATHER.



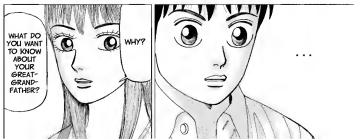
HE'D BE IN
THE FAMILY
REGISTRY
AND STUFF,
WOULDN'T
HE? YOU
DON'T
REMEMBER?

OH.
LET'S
SEE,
WHAT
WAS IT...



I THINK
MAYBE
THE NAME
WAS...

I DIDN'T PAY
PARTICULAR
ATTENTION,
SO...







THEY DO
LAUNCHING
EXPERIMENTS
THERE.
I HEAR IT'S
A LOT OF
FUN.

HE SAID
THERE'S A
PRIVATE
ROCKET
LAUNCHING
COMPANY IN
ASAHIKAWA.



I SEE...

TO
SEE IT
WITH
HIM.

HE WANTS
YOU TO
COME AND
SEE IT,
TAKASHI.







AFTER HE RETURNED TO JAPAN, HE ESTABLISHED A VENTURE BUSINESS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

HE STUDIED SPACE TECHNOLOGY AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY, THEN WENT OVERSEAS TO DO GRADUATE STUDIES AT MIT.



KUSAKABE TSUYOSHI.



HOW ARE THE VENTURE INVESTMENTS GOING, ZAIZEN?

THAT REMINDS ME...



HE'S A PREDECESSOR OF THE INVESTMENT CLUB WHO'S NOW A VENTURE BUSINESS MANAGER...



HUH?

THAT'S SO UNUSUAL, IT'S KIND OF SURPRISING.



WELL,
YOU SEE...



IT'S A
SPECIAL
SITUATION
FOR THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB, BUT WE
HAVEN'T
HEARD ANY
INFORMATION
ABOUT IT
LATELY.

WE
DIVESTED 15
BILLION YEN'S
WORTH OF
TREASURES IN
THE SAFE, AND
YOU WERE
GOING TO
INVEST IN
VENTURES
BUSINESSES
RELATED
TO BIO-
TECHNOLOGY.



WELL...



HUM?
WHAT
IS IT?



WHAT?!

YOU
HAVEN'T
STARTED
YET?!



I HAVEN'T
INVESTED
A SINGLE
YEN YET.

THE
CASH IS
STILL JUST
SITTING
THERE.



I JUST
WANTED TO
KEEP THIS
UNDER
WRAPS.

NO, NO... I'M
PLANNING TO
INVEST REAL
SOON.



WE
WARNED
YOU RE-
PEATEDLY.

THAT'S
WHY I SAID
VENTURE
INVESTMENTS
ARE
IMPOSSIBLE
WHILE
YOU'RE
IN THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB.



...YOU
DON'T KNOW
A THING ABOUT
VENTURES,
DO YOU?

IN OTHER
WORDS,
ZAIZEN...



THEN THIS
IS A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY.



MAYBE
NOT...













THAT'S WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE A
TRUE INVESTOR.

NO MATTER WHAT
THE SITUATION,
NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS AROUND
US, OUR MINDS
STAY CLEAR AND
UNDISTURBED.



IT'S OUR
OBLIGATION
TO ALWAYS
MAINTAIN
THAT KIND OF
COMPOSURE.

WE MAKE OUR
INVESTMENTS,
INDIFFERENT
TO WHETHER
THE GUY NEXT
TO US FAILS.



I'M MERELY
COMPENSATING
FOR AREAS IN
WHICH ZAIZEN
IS LACKING AS
AN INVESTMENT
CLUB MEMBER.

I DON'T HAVE
A SINGLE BIT
OF SOLICITUDE
WANTING TO
SAVE ZAIZEN
FROM HIS
DISTRESS.



YOU'LL
FIND OUT
WHEN YOU
GO THERE.



KUSAKABE-SAN
OF HOKUTO
SPACE WILL
COVER FOR US.









WOW...
THERE
ARE A
LOT OF
PEOPLE
HERE.



THIS
HILL HAS
THE BEST
VIEW.



THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.

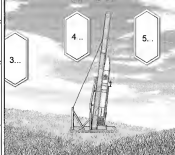
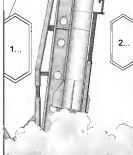


I'LL TAKE YOU
TO VISIT THE
OFFICE AFTER
THE LAUNCHING
EXPERIMENT
IS OVER.



IT'S
SORT OF
BECOME A
TOURIST
DRAW
LATELY.

MANTACAL
FANS COME IN
DROVDS
FROM THE
MAIN IS-
LAND.









THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH
FOR
THAT.



YOUR GRAND-
FATHER AND THE PRES-
IDENT HERE
ARE CLOSE
FRIENDS.

I'VE ASKED
HIM TO
TEACH YOU
EVERYTHING
YOU WANT
TO LEARN.



I'LL CALL
BEFORE WE
COME BACK.

I'M TAKING
AI-CHAN TO THE
RANCH TO SHOW
HER THE COWS.



LET'S
GO, AI-
CHAN.



OKAY,
PRESIDENT...
HE'S IN YOUR
HANDS.



I'LL
TAKE
GOOD
CARE
OF HIM.









TRUST-
WORTHY?
IS IT
REALLY
THAT
AMAZING?



IT JUST
MEANS OUR
TECHNOLOGY
IS TRUST-
WORTHY.



MOST
OF THE
ROCKET'S
COST IS
IN THE
FUEL.

ESSENTI-
ALLY, IT'S
FUEL THAT
FLIES BY
BURNING
FUEL.



SO IF WE CAN
DESIGN AN
ENGINE THAT
REQUIRES
LESS FUEL,
COSTS WILL
DRAMATICALLY
DECREASE.



YOU SEE, THE
STRUCTURE
OF A
ROCKET IS
SIMPLICITY
ITSELF. YOU
COULD SAY
IT'S JUST AN
ENGINE AND
A FUEL TANK.

NOT TO
MENTION
80% OF ITS
WEIGHT IS
IN FUEL.



OUR EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN SHOWING RESULTS, AND WE'VE ALREADY APPLIED FOR A PATENT.

OUR COMPANY AIMS TO DEVELOP A LOW-FUEL ENGINE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ANY POWER.



ONCE WE PAY BACK OUR INVESTORS, THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED.

IF THE DEVELOPMENT SUCCEEDS, THEN WE SELL THE TECHNOLOGY OR SELL THE PATENT. THAT'S HOW WE'LL PROFIT.



AREN'T YOU WORRIED THEY'LL BEAT YOU TO IT?

BUT AREN'T THEY DEVELOPING THIS KIND OF TECHNOLOGY ELSEWHERE, TOO?



YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN YOUR COMPANY'S TECHNOLOGY.

I GUESS THAT'S WHY THE INVESTORS ARE KEEPING QUIET.



NOT AT ALL.



MAJOR
COMPANIES
HAVE A HERD
MENTALITY.
ALWAYS.



WHAT
IF YOU
CAN'T TOP
THEM IN
TERMS OF
FUNDING
AND MANU-
FACTUR-
ING?

BUT I'M
SURE
MAJOR
COMPANIES
ARE DOING
RESEARCH
AND
DEVELOP-
MENT.



PLUS, IF
IT'S A
GOVERNMENT-
SPONSORED
BUSINESS,
THEY ARE
MANIPULATED
BY THE
GOVERNMENT.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
THEY
FOLLOW
OTHERS.



HERD
MENTAL-
ITY?



WE CAN BE
THE FIRST
PENGUIN.

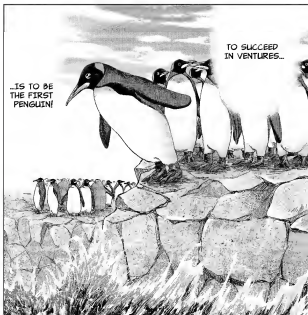
VENTURES
ARE
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT.



THE FIRST
PENGUIN
OUT OF THE
HERD TO
JUMP INTO
THE OCEAN.

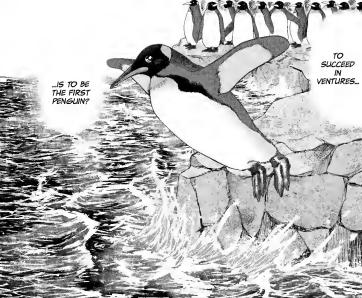


THE FIRST...
PENGUIN?



...IS TO BE
THE FIRST
PENGUIN!

TO SUCCEED
IN VENTURES...



...IS TO BE
THE FIRST
PENGUIN?

TO
SUCCEED
IN
VENTURES...

I'M SURE
YOU'VE SEEN
IT BEFORE
IN ANIMAL
DOCUMENTARIES.

WHAT IS
THE "FIRST
PENGUIN,"
ANYWAY?

THEY'RE
ALL MILLING
AROUND AS
IF THEY'RE
DECIDING
WHETHER
OR NOT TO
JUMP IN.

THERE'S A
COLONY OF
PENGUINS ON
CRAGS BY THE
OCEAN.

THERE ARE
SOME THAT
PUSH FROM
THE BACK:
"YOU GO."

THEY ALL
SEEM TO
REFER TO
EACH OTHER:
"YOU MAY
GO FIRST."

...BUT THEN
YOU REALIZE
THE LOGIC
OF WHAT'S
HAPPENING:
THE PENGUINS
SENSE THE REAL
DANGERS OF
THE OCEAN.

AT FIRST
GLANCE, YOU
ENJOY THE
ANIMALS'
SEEMINGLY
CUTE
BEHAVIOR.



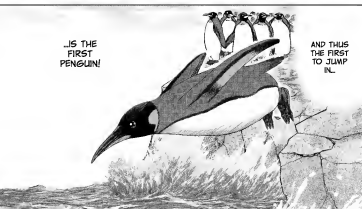
SEA
LIONS, KILLER
WHALES, FUR
SEALS, AND
OTHER SCARY
ANIMALS
THAT PREY ON
PENGUINS.

THE
DANGERS
OF THE
OCEAN ARE
THEIR
NATURAL
ENEMIES!



...WHO CONFIRM
WHETHER THE
WATER IS SAFE.

THEY DEFER
TO EACH OTHER
FOR SELFISH
REASONS,
THINKING THAT
THEY'D RATHER
JUMP IN AFTER
THE OTHER
PENGUINS
OF THE
COLONY...



...IS THE
FIRST
PENGUIN!

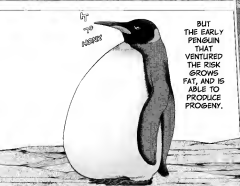
AND THUS
THE FIRST
TO JUMP
IN.



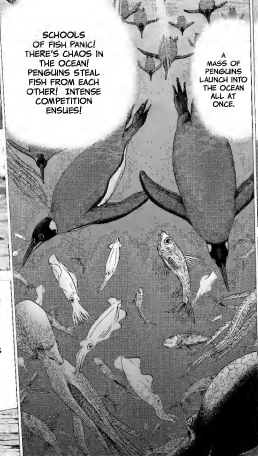
PENGUINS
THAT DOVE
IN LAST
OFTEN DON'T
GET TO
CATCH
ANY FISH
AT ALL.



PENGUINS
THAT DON'T
EAT & GROW
WEAK, AND
EVENTUALLY
DIE.



BUT
THE EARLY
PENGUIN
THAT
VENTURED
THE RISK
GROWS
FAT, AND IS
ABLE TO
PRODUCE
PROGENY.

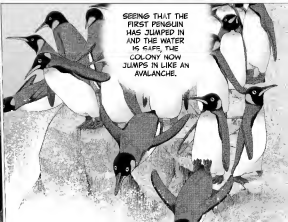


SCHOOLS
OF FISH PANIC!
THERE'S CHAOS IN
THE OCEAN!
PENGUINS STEAL
FISH FROM EACH
OTHER! INTENSE
COMPETITION
ENSUES!

A
MASS OF PENGUINS
LAUNCH INTO
THE OCEAN
ALL AT ONCE.



OF
COURSE,
COUPLED
WITH THE
RISK IS THE
PERK THAT
IT CAN
EAT ITS
BELLYFUL
OF FISH.



SEEING THAT THE
FIRST PENGUIN
HAS JUMPED IN
AND THE WATER
IS SAFE, THE
COLONY NOW
JUMPS IN LIKE AN
AVALANCHE.



IF
YOU'RE
SECOND OR
THIRD, IT'S
ALREADY
TOO LATE.
YOU
HAVE TO
BE FIRST.

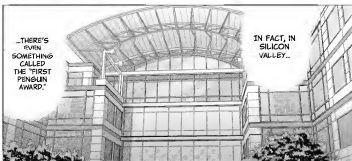
THAT'S
IT.

IN OTHER
WORDS... TO
VENTURE IS TO
BE THE FIRST
TO DIVE IN THE
OCEAN, AND
EAT MORE
FISH THAN
THE REST.



THERE'S
A CULTURE
THAT
APPLAUDS
THAT KIND
OF WILL
AND
ACTION.

"FIRST PENGUIN"
IS AN ENGLISH
IDOM REFERRING
TO BRAVELY
TAKING ON A NEW
CHALLENGE IN
AN UNCERTAIN
SITUATION.



...THERE'S
EVEN
SOMETHING
CALLED
THE "FIRST
PENGUIN
AWARD."

IN FACT, IN
SILICON
VALLEY...



IN FACT...
WE SAY
THINGS LIKE,
"THE NAIL
THAT STICKS
OUT GETS
HAMMERED
DOWN."

BUT
IN JAPAN,
THERE'S NO
CULTURE OF
TAKING THE
INITIATIVE TO
JUMP INTO
THE OCEAN.



NOT
STANDING OUT,
FOLLOWING THE
HERD, EVERYONE
WAITING IN THE
BACK! PEOPLE ARE
IMMERSED IN THESE
IDEAS, THINKING
THEY ARE THE KEY
TO LIVING A
LIFE WITHOUT
HARDSHIP.

"SMART
HAWKS
HIDE THEIR
TALONS."
"SILENT
PHEASANTS
DON'T GET
SHOT..."



THOUGH
THEY SEE
BUSINESSES
FLOUNDERING,
THEY STILL
FOLLOW ALONG,
AND THEY ALL
END UP AS
"BOILED FROGS"
IN THE END.

MOST
BUSINESSES
THINK LIKE
THAT, TOO.





I'D USE
INEXPENSIVE
PARTS,
WOULDN'T
I?

U.M.



..HOW
WOULD
YOU DO
IT?

IF YOU
WANTED
TO MAKE
THINGS
INEXPEN-
SIVELY,
THEN.



HOWEVER,
IN TERMS
OF SPACE
DEVELOPMENT,
THAT SIMPLE
MARKETPLACE
LOGIC DOESN'T
HOLD WATER.



THAT'S
RIGHT.



WHY?
BECAUSE
PEOPLE HAVE
THE PRECONCEIVED
NOTION THAT ALL
THINGS MEANT TO
BE USED IN SPACE
MUST BE SPECIALLY
CRAFTED BY
SEASONED EXPERTS
WITH HIGH-LEVEL
TECHNOLOGY.

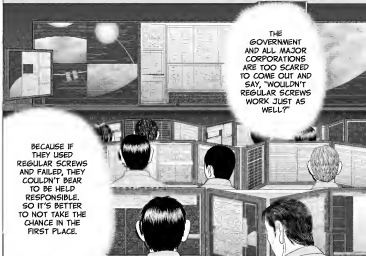
FOR
EXAMPLE,
THE SCREWS
WE USE COST
TENS OF
THOUSANDS
OF YEN PER
SINGLE
SCREW.





ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OKAY?





BECAUSE IF
THEY USED
REGULAR SCREWS
AND FAILED, THEY
COULDN'T BEAR
TO BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE.
SO IT'S BETTER
TO NOT TAKE THE
CHANCE IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

THE
GOVERNMENT
AND ALL MAJOR
CORPORATIONS
ARE TOO SCARED
TO COME OUT AND
SAY, "WOULDN'T
REGULAR SCREWS
WORK JUST AS
WELL?"



SO
THERE'S
NO WAY
THEY
COULD
OUTDO
FOREIGN
COMPETI-
TORS.



"OUTDO,"
HUH?



THEY
GAUGE EACH
OTHER'S
EXPRESSIONS
AND
CONTROL
EACH OTHER,
AND THOSE
EXPEND
MONEY AND
TIME.

THEY'RE...
EXTREMELY
SCARED OF
FAILURES.



THAT'S
WHERE OUR
STRENGTH LIES:
IN THE LEeway TO
TEST AND FAIL.
REVOLUTIONARY
IDEAS ARE BORN
FROM REPEATED
TRIAL AND
ERROR!

WELL,
WHEN IT
COMES TO
THOSE
THINGS,
WE'RE
FREE TO
FAIL.



WE CAN
MAKE
OUR OWN
DECISIONS
AND
JUMP IN!

WHILE THE
HUGE HERD
HEMS AND
HAWES LEFT
AND RIGHT...



I SEE... I'M
IN COMPLETE
AGREEMENT.



WE CAN
EAT ALL
THE FISH
WE WANT IN
THE SPACE
DEVELOP-
MENT
MARKET.

THAT'S
HOW WE
CAN BE
THE FIRST
PENGUIN.





INFRA.



IN OTHER
WORDS, THE
FOUNDATIONS
OF SPACE
TECHNOLOGY.



IF
THE TREND
CONTINUES,
LAUNCH PRICES
WILL NEVER GO
DOWN, AND
THERE WILL
BE NO
PROGRESS IN
DEVELOPMENT.

RUSSIA IS
THE ONLY
COUNTRY
RIGHT NOW
MAKING
ROCKETS
THAT
TRANSPORT
PEOPLE.



BECAUSE
I'M.

...TRYING
TO CREATE AN
INFRASTRUCTURE.





AND IF
THAT BECOMES
POSSIBLE, ALL
KINDS OF NEW
IDEAS WILL BE
BORN; THINGS
HITHERTO
UNTHOUGHT-OF
WILL COME
TO PASS.

THEN WE
CAN GO TO
SPACE
CHEAPLY!



..INNUMERABLE
BUSINESSES
SPRANG FORTH
IN NO TIME
ALL OVER
THE WORLD.
IT'S JUST
LIKE THAT.

SIMPLY BY
VIRTUE OF
HAVING
AN INFRA-
STRUCTURE
FOR THE
INTERNET..



ANYWAY,
WE'RE
PRODUCING
COST-
EFFECTIVE
ROCKETS.

IT'S YOUR
GENERATION'S
JOB TO DREAM
NEW DREAMS.



**RICHIE-SAN,
YOU'RE
AWESOME!**



**HE'S A
SPLENDID
MANAGER
OF A
VENTURE
BUSINESS!**



**HE'S A DEEP
AND BOLD
HUMAN BEING,
AND NOT
JUST WITH
HIS BUSINESS
IDEAS!**



WE
NEED TO
HELP HIM
GROW HIS
BUSINESS
AND BENEFIT
SOCIETY!

THIS IS THE
KIND OF
PERSON TO
INVEST IN.



IT WAS
IMPORTANT TO
MAKE PERSONAL
CONTACT FIRST,
TO MEET
THE HUMAN
CHARACTER
BEHIND THE
BUSINESS.



THAT'S WHY
KAMISHIRO-
SAN WANTED
ME TO MEET
RICHI-SAN.



LET ME FUND
YOU AS MY
FIRST VENTURE
INVESTMENT!

RICHI-SAN, I
WANT TO AID
YOUR SPACE
DEVELOPMENT
ENDEAVORS.













THAT'S
BECAUSE I
WANT JAPAN
TO BE A
FORMIDABLE
WORLD
LEADER IN
REGENERATIVE
MEDICINE.

YES.



I HEARD
YOU DIVESTED
THE ASSETS IN
THE SAFE, AND
REPORTED TO
THE FUJITA
CLAN THAT
YOU WANTED
TO INVEST
THE FUNDS IN
BIOTECH.

ZAIZEN...



...I DECLINED
YOUR
INVESTMENT
OFFER.

THAT'S
THE
REASON
WHY...



WHY?

WHAT?



WINNING
AND
LOSING?



GUYS
WHO
CASUALLY
TALK
ABOUT
WINNING
AND
LOSING..

...MAKE THE
WORST
INVESTORS.



...



BECAUSE
YOU'RE
INTERESTED IN
WINNING AND
LOSING IN
BUSINESS.

EVEN
IF YOU
OFFERED A
TRILLION YEN,
I WOULD
DECLINE IT.

HOKU



AGAINST
WHAT
COMPANY?

WIN THE
WAR?
AGAINST
WHOM?



YOU SAID
IF YOU
WON THE
PRICE WAR IN
ROCKETS
AND BECAME
NUMBER
ONE, YOUR
VENTURE
WOULDN'T
FAIL.

BUT
YOU'RE
THE
SAME,
RICHIE-
SAN.



THEY'RE
NOT MY
ENEMIES,
THEY'RE MY
ALLIES.

Y-YOU KNOW,
COMPANIES
THAT
ARE YOUR
COMPETITORS
OVERSEAS.



YEAH.
ALLIES.

THEY ARE ALLIES
WHO HAVE THE
SAME DREAM, THE
DREAM OF MAKING
COST-EFFICIENT
ROCKETS AND A
SPACE TECHNOLOGY
INFRASTRUCTURE.
I DON'T CARE WHO
SUCCEEDS FIRST.



ALLIES?



SOMEWHERE
ON THIS
PLANET,
EXPERIMENTAL
ROCKETS ARE
GETTING
LAUNCHED.

THE
WORLD IS
A VAST
PLACE.



BECOME
A BIGGER
HUMAN
BEING.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
INVEST, THEN
TAKE THE
LARGER
PERSPECTIVE.



WHEN I THINK
ABOUT THAT,
TALK ABOUT
WINNING,
LOSING, OR
COMPETITION.

IT ALL
SEEMS
SILLY,
DON'T
YOU
THINK?





BUT IF THAT'S
THEIR MODUS
OPERANDI, THEY'LL
NEVER DISCOVER
ANY LARGE LAND
MASSSES.

SHIPS
LIKE THAT ARE
SHIPS THAT
OCCASIONALLY
FREQUENT
POCKS AT SMALL
HARBORS.



WE CANNOT
SET SAIL WITH
OTHERS WHO
DON'T HAVE
A BROAD
IMAGINATION,
WHO DON'T HAVE
A VISION FOR
THE FUTURE.

OUR
JOURNEY IN
CHALLENGING
THE SPACE
INDUSTRY IS
IMAGINATIVE.



I SEE...



THERE ARE
VERY FEW
INVESTORS
IN JAPAN.



THERE MUST
BE MANY
BROAD-MINDED
INVESTORS
IN JAPAN.



THEY'RE
FROM
OVER-
SEAS?

WHAT?

TO
SUPPORT THE
DEVELOPMENT
OF YOUR
VENTURE
COMPANY,
RICHE-SAN.



THE
OTHERS
ARE FROM
ALL
OVER THE
WORLD.



YES...
THEY'RE
MOSTLY
AMERICANS.



WHY?

TO
THE
U.S.?



...WE'LL BE
MOVING
OUR
COMPANY
TO THE
U.S.

AND
SOON..



BECAUSE
WE CAN'T
CONTINUE
EXPERIMENTING
ANY FURTHER
IN JAPAN.

THE
REASON
IS
SIMPLE.



BUT
YOU JUST
HAD AN
EXPERIMENT.

YOU
CAN'T
CONTINUE
EXPERI-
MENTING?



BUT WE
CAN'T GET
PERMISSION
TO LAUNCH
ANYTHING
BIGGER.

WE CAN
LAUNCH
ROCKETS
OF THAT
CLASS
AND SIZE.



WE HAVE
TO SUBMIT A
MOUNTAIN OF
PAPERWORK, AND
IF ONE OF THOSE
DOESN'T GET
A STAMP OF
APPROVAL,
THE REST ARE
DONE FOR.

MANY LEGAL
HURDLES HAVE
TO BE CLEARED
IN JAPAN BEFORE
LAUNCHING
ROCKETS: LAWS
PERTAINING TO
AIR SPACE, FIRE
PRECAUTIONS,
COMBUSTIBLES,
RADAR
SIGNALS...

A black and white illustration of a person sitting at a desk in an office. A large, thick 'X' is drawn over the entire scene, indicating a negation or a 'no' to the situation described.

IF THE
GOVERNMENT
DONES'T
SUPPORT IT,
INVESTORS
BACK OFF, SO
THERE'S NO
FUNDING.

THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT
HAS NO INTEREST
IN ROCKET
BUSINESS,
SO THEY'RE
UNCOOPERATIVE.

A black and white illustration of a wide road with a few cars driving on it. In the background, there are industrial buildings, a tall smokestack, and a lighthouse-like structure. The sky is cloudy.

THEIR
GOVERNMENT
AND ITS
ADMINISTRATORS
GIVE FULL
SUPPORT, SO
INVESTORS
POOL THEIR
FUNDS, AND
EVERYONE
MOVES
FORWARD.

ON THE
OTHER HAND,
THE U.S. GIVES
THE GREEN
LIGHT TO
ANYTHING
PERTAINING
TO SPACE
TECHNOLOGY.

A black and white illustration of a rocket launch. A large plume of smoke and fire is coming from the bottom, rising into the sky. The landscape is rocky and barren.

HE CAN
LAUNCH AS
MANY ROCKETS
AS HE LIKES IN
TEXAS WITHOUT
A LICENSE, AND
THE GOVERNMENT
ALSO FUNDED
HIM TENS OF
BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS.

IN FACT,
THE CREATOR
OF PAYPAL,
ELON MUSK,
ESTABLISHED
A COMPANY
CALLED
SPACEX.



...AND COUNTRIES WHO OBEY THE RULES.

COUNTRIES WHO MAKE THE RULES...



YOU SEE...

...THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHO MAKE THE RULES, AND COUNTRIES WHO OBEY THE RULES.



IF THEY ASSESS THAT THEY'RE FALLING BEHIND BY THE TIMES, THEY QUICKLY CHANGE THE RULES.

AS FAR AS WESTERNERS ARE CONCERNED, RULES ARE MEANT TO BE CHANGED.



IT'S A CULTURE THAT PLACES VALUE IN PERSISTENCE OF FOLLOWING ONCE-ESTABLISHED RULES.

BUT AS FAR AS JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, RULES ARE MEANT TO BE OBEYED.

0
3:20

THEY CAN
TURN THEIR
JUDO
UNIFORMS
BLUE IN
COLOR.
THEY CAN
SHORTEN SKI
RAMPS.



IF THESE
TWO VALUES
CLASH, IT'S ONLY
NATURAL THAT THE
SIDE WHO MAKES
THE RULES
WILL HAVE MORE
INITIATIVE.



SOME PEOPLE
CLAMOR THAT IT'S
NOT FAIR TO CHANGE
THE RULES, BUT
THAT'S AKIN TO
CHILDREN THROWING
TANTRUMS; THEY
GET IGNORED BY
THE REST OF THE
WORLD.

ALL THEY CAN
HOPE FOR IS
TO KEEP MAKING
MODIFICATIONS
WITHIN A
MUSTY OLD
ORGANIZATIONAL
SCHEME, AND
SENDING OFF
THEIR PRODUCTS
ACCORDING TO
THE RULES.





THEY'LL
HAVE TO START
FROM SCRATCH,
WHILE THE
MODIFICATIONS
MARCH ON.
THAT'S HOW
IT IS IN OUR
COUNTRY.

IF THEY
BECOME
EXPERTS IN A
SPECIALIZED
CRAFT, THEY
WILL BECOME
USELESS IF THE
RULES CHANGE,
AND THEY ARE
NO LONGER
NEEDED.



SO WE'RE
GOING TO A
COUNTRY WHO
MAKES THE
RULES.

THE SPACE
TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS
CANNOT
FLOURISH IN
A COUNTRY
WHO OBEYS
THE RULES.



I WISH
YOU THE BEST
IN YOUR
INVESTMENTS,
TOO.

YEAH..

IT'S A
SHAME YOU
HAVE TO
LEAVE, BUT
I WISH YOU
THE BEST
OVERSEAS.

I SEE.



I LEARNED
A HARSH
LESSON IN
THAT VISIT,
THAT I HAD
VERY NAIVE
IDEAS ABOUT
INVESTING.



...BUT NOW I
FEEL ASHAMED
FOR NOT
KNOWING IT
WAS OVER
MY HEAD.



I RAISED A
RUCKUS ABOUT
DIVESTING THE
SAFE'S ASSETS
AND MAKING
VENTURE
INVESTMENTS...

BUT I'VE GOT
TO GET OVER MY
DISCOURAGEMENT.
I CAN'T STAY
FEELING SORRY
FOR MYSELF.
IF I FAIL, I'LL
BE PUNISHED TO
SPEND THE REST
OF MY LIFE AS
A BUTLER.



I WAS
TOTALLY
SHADOW-
BOXING,
ALL BY
MYSELF.



UGH...

WHAT A
MESS...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?



OH.
NOTHING.



ZAIZEN-
KUN.

YIKES!



TH- THE
MASTER IS
COMING?!

WHAT!



HE'S
ATTENDING A
RELIGIOUS
CEREMONY
FOR THE
FUJITA
CLAN IN
SAPPORO.

I WANTED
TO LET YOU
KNOW, THE
MASTER
WILL BE
COMING ON
SATURDAY.



PLEASE
PREPARE A
PRESENTATION
FOR HIM.

HE'S
EXPECTING
A FINANCIAL
REPORT ABOUT
YOUR VENTURE
INVESTMENTS,
ZAIZEN-KUN.



I
HAVEN'T
INVESTED A
PENNY
YET!!

P-PREPARE A
PRESENTATION?

A black and white illustration of a middle-aged man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is sitting in a high-backed chair with two vertical supports behind him. He has a serious expression.

HE WANTS
TO HEAR MY
REPORT
ABOUT HOW
THE VENTURE
INVESTMENTS
ARE GOING!

THE
MASTER
OF THE
FUJITA
FAMILY IS
COMING TO
SAPPORO!

A black and white illustration showing two men in a room filled with bookshelves. On the left, a young man with dark hair and a high-collared jacket looks towards the right. On the right, an older man is shown in profile, facing the younger man.

I HAVEN'T
INVESTED A
SINGLE PENNY
IN VENTURES
YET.

I
HAVEN'T
DONE
A THING
YET.

A black and white close-up illustration of the young man's face. He has a serious, slightly worried expression, looking directly forward.

BECAUSE...

THIS IS BAD.
I'M IN HUGE
TROUBLE
NOW.



...I'LL HAVE
TO SERVE THE
FUJITA FAMILY
FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE AS
A BUTLER!

...IF MY
INVESTMENTS
FAIL...



...THEN I...

IF THAT
PENALTY GETS
IMPLEMENTED...



...POLISHING
THE FLOORS
WITH A RAG
UNTIL THE
DAY I DIE!

...WILL BE
FORCED
TO LIVE IN
THAT
MANSION.











...YOUR FAILURE
HERE ISN'T THE
FACT THAT YOU
COULDN'T INVEST
IN VENTURES;
IT'S THE FACT
THAT YOU LET 15
BILLION SIT AND
DO NOTHING.

ZAIZEN..



WHICH
MAKES YOU
A FAILURE
AS AN
INVESTOR.

AND YOU'RE
SO INSENSITIVE
TO THE FACT
THAT YOU LET
THE CASH SIT
AROUND DOING
NOTHING,
YOU'VE FELT
NOTHING.



YOU'LL
HAVE TO
HUMBLY
BOW AND
APOLOGIZE;
THERE'S NO
WAY OUT
OF IT.

A GUY LIKE
THAT WILL TOTALLY
LOSE TRUST IN A
MATTER OF WEEKS;
NO MATTER WHAT
PLANS HE MIGHT
DEVISE, THEIR
FOUNDATIONS
WILL CRACK.





I NEED
TO GO
BACK TO
BASICS.



TO THE
WORDS
OF OUR
FIRST
CAPTAIN,
RYU-
GORO.

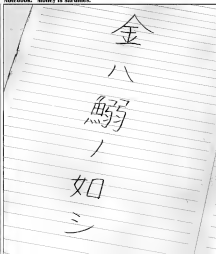


notebook: "Money is sardines."



THAT'S
WHAT
THIS
MEANS.

IF SARDINES
AND MONEY
ARE LEFT AS
IS, THEY ROT
AND LOSE
VALUE; EAT
THEM, AND
YOU WILL BE
NOURISHED.





WILL I
BECOME A
PERSON OF
RYUGBORO'S
CALIBER BY
THE TIME I
GRADUATE?

I WONDER
IF I COULD
HAND DOWN
SUCH
POISONANT
WORDS OF
TRUTH.



I HAVE
TO VIEW
THINGS WITH
A BIGGER
MIND, WITH A
BROADER
PERSPECTIVE.

NO... I THINK
IT'S THIS KIND OF
COMPETITIVENESS
THAT LED TO
MY CURRENT
MISTAKE.



AND
YET...



I CAN'T
HELP THE
WAY I
FEEL...

...I DON'T
WANT TO
LOSE.



BUT
NO ONE
RESIDES
HERE
CURRENTLY.

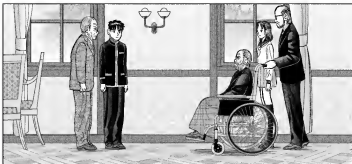
IT'S
THE MAIN
MANSION
OF THE
FUJITA
FAMILY.



I
THOUGHT
IT WAS A
CULTURAL
ASSET OF
SAPPORO
CITY.

SO THIS
MANSION
BELONGS
TO THE
FUJITA
FAMILY.











I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
ZAIZEN
RYUGORO.



DO
YOU
MEAN...



GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER?!



THAT'S
RIGHT.
ZAIZEN
TAKASHI-
KUN'S
GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER...

...WAS
THE FIRST
CAPTAIN OF
DOJUKU
ACADEMY'S
INVESTMENT
CLUB.



THAT'S
YOUR
GREAT-
GRAND-
FATHER?

ZAIZEN...
RYU-
GORO?



HE
WAS A
GENIUS
OF THE
MEIJI
PERIOD.

THERE
WOULD
BE NO
DOJUKU
TODAY IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR RYU-
GORO.



IS
THAT
TRUE?

THE FIRST
CAPTAIN
OF THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB?



YOU,
ON THE
OTHER
HAND...

...AREN'T
EVEN
WORTHY
TO SHINE
HIS
SHOES.



IS
THAT
SO?



ECONOMIC
SITUATIONS
HAVE
COMPLETELY
CHANGED
SINCE
THE MEIJI
PERIOD.



HE BELIEVED
INVESTMENTS
WOULD BE
SUCCESSFUL
AS LONG AS
HE FOLLOWED
THE GOVERN-
MENT'S AIMS.

BUSINESSES
RELATED TO
NATIONAL
POLICIES
WERE THE
FOCUS IN
HIS DAY.



I CAN'T
AGREE WITH
THAT
ASSESSMENT,
NOT BASED ON
VENTURE
INVESTMENTS
ALONE.



WH...
WHICH
ONES?



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
I'M
TALKING
ABOUT.



...PURCHASED
MASSIVE
QUANTITIES
OF TELE-
COMMUNICATION
STOCKS.

FOR ONE
EXAMPLE,
RYUGORO...



TELE-
COMMUNI-
CATION..
YOU MEAN.



TELE-
COMMUNI-
CATION?



THE
"GULLIVER
OF THE
ADVERTISING
WORLD,"
WHICH AS
A GROUP
BOASTS
A PROFIT
OF TWO
TRILLION
YEN!

ELECTRONIC
MESSAGING
BY
ADVERTISING
COMPANIES!



IF YOU
LOOK AT
DOJUKU'S
SHARE
HOLDINGS,
YOU'LL
SEE THAT
THEY HAVE
INCREASED
HUNDREDS OF
TIMES BEYOND
THEIR INITIAL
VALUE.



THAT'S THE TEL-
COMMUNICATION
I'M TALKING
ABOUT. TEL-
COMMUNICATION
WAS INVENTED IN
THE MEIJI PERIOD;
IT WAS AN
LITERALLY UNKNOWN
VENTURE AT
THE TIME.



THAT'S
TRUE...
THERE ARE
A LOT
OF TEL-
COMMUNI-
CATION
STOCKS.



BUT
RYUGORO
PURCHASED
MASSIVE
QUANTITIES
OF
RELATED
STOCKS.



HE HAD
INSIGHTFUL
EYES TO READ
THE SIGNS OF
THE TIMES.
THAT'S WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.

RYUGORO
PROGNOSTICATED
THAT JAPAN'S
ADVERTISING
BUSINESSES
WOULD
DRAMATICALLY
GROW IN THE
FUTURE.



MEIJI WAS
A PERIOD OF
GROWTH, BUT THE
PRESENT IS A TIME
OF MATURATION.
I THINK IT'S FAR
MORE DIFFICULT TO
FIND PROMISING
NEW BUSINESSES IN
A MATURE SOCIETY.

I THINK
YOU'RE
DISREGARDING
HANDICAPS,
COMPARING
HIM TO HIS
GREAT-
GRANDFATHER.



WHAT?



NO...
THERE ARE
PLENTY
HINTS
EVERY-
WHERE
TO READ
THE SIGNS
OF THE
TIMES.











ALL
THAT
MONEY
ROTS AWAY
IN PICKLE
JARS.

THAT
TOTALS 880
TRILLION
YEN!



THAT WAS
INCORRECT
INFORMATION

APPROXIMATELY
HALF OF THE 16
QUADRILLION
GOES TO
FUNDING PRIVATE
BUSINESSES, SO
IT DOESN'T
COUNT.



UM...

...I'VE
HEARD
PRIVATE
FINANCIAL
ASSETS
TOTAL
16 QU-
DRILLION
YEN.



THERE'S AN
EVEN MORE
SERIOUS
PROBLEM.



SO... YOU'RE
SAYING THE 880
TRILLION YEN
SITS STILL DOING
NOTHING, AND
ECONOMIC
CIRCULATION
GETS STALLED.

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
SAYING
JAPAN
WILL NOT
GROW
IN THE
FUTURE.



WHICH ALSO
IMPLIES A FAST
DECLINE IN
POPULATION.

THE BIGGEST
PROBLEM
LOOMING
IN JAPAN'S
FUTURE IS
THAT IT IS FAST
BECOMING A
SUPER-ELDERLY
SOCIETY!



THE
POPULATION
WILL PROBABLY
CONCENTRATE IN
METROPOLITAN
AREAS. HOKKAIDO,
NORTHERN HONSHU,
SHIKOKU, AND
KYUSHU WILL
BECOME DESOLATE
WASTELANDS.

POPULATION
PEAKED IN
DECEMBER 2004
AT 127.8 MILLION.
IT'S PREDICTED
THAT BY 2100, 40%
OF THE NATION
WILL BE ELDERLY,
AND THE
POPULATION
WILL HAVE
DECLINED TO
34 MILLION!



...JAPAN
WILL
BASICALLY
VANISH
FROM
THE FACE
OF THE
EARTH.

IN OTHER
WORDS, IN
100 YEARS...



THINK
ABOUT IT.
YOUR GREAT-
GRANDFATHER
RYUGORO
WAS A YOUNG
MAN ONLY
100 YEARS
AGO.

100 YEARS
WILL COME
IN FLASH.



I HATE IT
THAT MY
FUTURE
LIES IN THE
NATION'S
DECLINE.

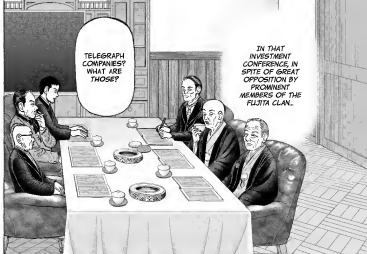
IT
SCARES
ME
JUST TO
IMAGINE
IT.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
JAPANESE
POPULATION
WILL
DECREASE
TO ONLY 30
MILLION
PEOPLE...

THAT'S TRUE...
100 YEARS
IS ONLY A
MATTER
OF THREE
GENERATIONS.





IN THAT INVESTMENT CONFERENCE, IN SPITE OF GREAT OPPOSITION BY PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FUJITA CLAN.

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES?
WHAT ARE THOSE?



THEY ARE BASED ON OUR CURRENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES. THEY'VE BEEN AROUND ONLY A FEW YEARS, BUT IT'S SAID THAT THESE COMPANIES HOLD PROMISE.

THEY ARE ADVERTISING COMPANIES.



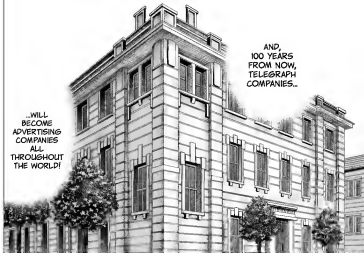
WE SHOULD INVEST IN THOSE COMPANIES.

NO...

YOU MEAN LEAFLET COMPANIES? HOW CAN WE MAKE A BIG PROFIT FROM SMALL BUSINESSES LIKE THAT?

ADVERTISING?





AND,
100 YEARS
FROM NOW,
TELEGRAPH
COMPANIES..

...WILL
BECOME
ADVERTISING
COMPANIES
ALL
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD!



DO
YOU THINK
ADVERTISING
IS ONLY
DONE IN
NEWS-
PAPERS?



WHAT?



THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

DON'T MAKE
ME LAUGH!
NEWSPAPER
ADVERTISERS
WOULD
NEVER
GROW LIKE
THAT!



TELEPHONES
WILL BE
PORTABLE, AND
EVERYONE WILL
WALK AROUND
WITH THEM.



EVENTUALLY,
PEOPLE
WILL ENJOY
WATCHING
DISPLAYS
OF PEOPLE
SINGING,
DANCING, AND
PERFORMING
PLAYS.



INFORMATION
WILL FLOOD
THE WORLD,
THOUSANDS OR
EVEN TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF
TIMES FASTER
THAN IN OUR
WORLD TODAY.



BY THEN,
ADVERTISING
WILL HAVE
GROWN INTO
A MAJOR
INDUSTRY!









IF THE
POPULATION
GROWS, OUR
SOCIETY WILL
PERK UP, AND
THE NATION
WILL GROW
AGAIN.

IF THE
MONEY GETS
ROUTED TO
THE YOUNGER
GENERATION,
THAT'LL BEEF UP
THEIR ECONOMIC
POWER. THEY
CAN MARRY
AND HAVE
CHILDREN.



THAT
MONEY IN
SAVINGS WON'T
BUDGE UNLESS
IT GETS FORCED
TO MOVE, MAYBE
BY PASSING A
NEW LAW OR
SOMETHING TO
MAKE PEOPLE
START
SPENDING.

THAT'S
EASIER
SAID THAN
DONE.



MOST OF
THE OLDER
GENERATION
IS PROUD OF
HAVING REBUILT
A WAR-TORN
NATION.

I GUESS
THAT'S TRUE.
PEOPLE HOLD
ON TIGHT TO
THEIR
HARD-EARNED
MONEY...



JAPAN
BECAME THE
WORLD'S SECOND
ECONOMIC
SUPERPOWER
BECAUSE OF
THE POSTWAR
GENERATION'S
EFFORTS.

THEY WERE
THE MAJOR
PLAYERS WHO
MADE JAPAN
GREAT.





IT'S A
FUNDAMENTAL
ECONOMIC
PRINCIPLE
ATTESTED BY
HISTORY.

IF
POPULATION
GROWS, SO
WILL THE
ECONOMY.



...THAT HAS
FOLLOWED
POPULATION
GROWTH
ELSEWHERE
IN ASIA: IN
THAILAND,
INDONESIA,
AND THE
PHILIPPINES.

FOR
EXAMPLE,
CONSIDER
THE PRESENT
ECONOMIC
SWELLING...



SURELY OUR
POPULATION
DIDN'T GROW
THAT FAST.

WHAT?
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...



ALL
JAPAN
DID WAS
EXPERIENCE
THE SAME
PHENOMENON
A LITTLE
EARLIER.

JAPAN'S
POPULATION
GROWTH
HAPPENED
50 YEARS
SOONER.

THIS GRAPH SAYS IT ALL.

THERE WAS A BABY BOOM POPULATION EXPLOSION AFTER THE WAR.


World population growth from 800 to 2025. The graph shows a sharp increase starting around 1650, reaching 10 billion in 1962, and projected to reach 12 billion by 2025. Key historical events and population milestones are marked: 800 (Roman Empire), 1050 (Islamic Empire), 1250 (Mongol Empire), 1450 (European Renaissance), 1650 (Start of Industrial Revolution), 1850 (End of War), 1914 (Start of World War I), 1945 (End of World War II), 1962 (10 billion population), 1975 (11 billion population), 1985 (12 billion population), 1995 (13 billion population), 2005 (14 billion population), 2015 (15 billion population), 2025 (16 billion population).

THIS GRAPH SAYS IT ALL.

THERE WAS A BABY BOOM POPULATION EXPLOSION AFTER THE WAR.


World population growth from 800 to 2025. The graph shows a sharp increase starting around 1650, reaching 10 billion in 1962, and projected to reach 12 billion by 2025. Key historical events and population milestones are marked.

Year	Population (Billions)	Event / Milestone
800	~0.2	Roman Empire
1050	~0.3	Mongol invasions
1350	~0.4	Black Death
1650	~0.5	Start of modern era
1800	~0.8	Industrial Revolution
1914	~1.5	Start of WWI
1945	~2.5	End of WWI
1962	10.0	10 billion population
1975	~3.5	Korean peninsula reunification
1989	~5.3	Fall of the Berlin Wall
1991	~5.7	Soviet Union collapses
2000	~6.0	Millennium
2025	12.0	Projected 12 billion population



JAPAN HAD AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH.

CONSUMPTION INCREASED IN TANDEM WITH POPULATION GROWTH. INDUSTRIES DEVELOPED, WAGES INCREASED, THE STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE CLASS CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIETAL PROSPERITY. JAPAN EVENTUALLY BECAME AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER BECAUSE OF THIS.



JAPAN HAD AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH.

CONSUMPTION INCREASED IN TANDEM WITH POPULATION GROWTH. INDUSTRIES DEVELOPED, WAGES INCREASED, THE STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE CLASS CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIETAL PROSPERITY. JAPAN EVENTUALLY BECAME AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER BECAUSE OF THIS.



...BECAUSE OF
THE POSTWAR
GENERATION'S
HARD WORK AND
INDUSTRIOSITY.

YOU ARE IN
ABSOLUTE
ERROR IF
YOU BELIEVE
JAPAN IS
WHAT IT IS
TODAY..



THE
POPULATION
GREW.

THE
REASON
IS MUCH
SIMPLER.



...THOSE
COUNTRIES
DON'T HAVE
THEIR OWN
DOMESTIC
INDUSTRIES
AND
BUSINESSES,
DO THEY?

YEAH,
BUT...



THAILAND,
VIETNAM,
AND
INDONESIA
ARE
GROWING
AT HIGH
RATE, JUST
LIKE JAPAN
ONCE DID.

I SUPPOSE
YOU COULD
INFER THAT
FROM THE
CURRENT
SITUATION
IN ASIA.







WELL,
CONSIDER
PATRIOTISM,
FOR
EXAMPLE.



PATRIO-
TISM?



BY "FATE OF
THE NATION,"
ARE YOU
REFERRING
TO "LUCK"?



ALSO, BECAUSE
OF ITS SMALL SIZE,
COMMUNICATION
NETWORKS HAVE BEEN
EASY TO SET UP.
THOSE NETWORKS
ARE FACILITATED BY THE
GATHERING OF MANY
YOUNG EMPLOYEES
INTO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.
THERE AREN'T MANY
COUNTRIES IN THE
WORLD THAT HAVE
THIS KIND OF IDEAL
SCENARIO.

JAPAN HAS
DISADVANTAGES, SUCH
AS SUFFERING FROM
NATURAL DISASTERS
AND CALAMITIES LIKE
EARTHQUAKES. BUT
IT DOESN'T SHARE
ITS BORDERS WITH
NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES, SO
HAS HAD VERY
FEW DISPUTES
WITH THEM.



WHAT
PSYCHO-
LOGICAL
MAKEUP IS
THAT?



FURTHERMORE, THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL
MAKEUP OF THE
JAPANESE PEOPLE
HAD A GREAT
IMPACT ON
JAPAN'S ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.



THEIR
UNTIRING
OPTIMISM.



...OPTIMISM?

UNTIRING...



THEY ARE:
FREEDOM,
DEMOCRACY,
AND
COMPETITION.

THERE
ARE THREE
CONDITIONS
THAT ARE
ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL
TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.

An aerial photograph showing a city with a river, roads, and buildings, likely during the American occupation of Japan.

JAPAN
HAD NO
AUTONOMY
AT THE TIME,
WHICH
WORKED
TO THEIR
ADVANTAGE.

JAPAN WAS
OCCUPIED BY THE
UNITED STATES
AFTER THE WAR.
THE UNITED STATES
COMMANDED JAPAN
TO IMPLEMENT A
GOVERNMENT
BASED ON HUMAN
FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY.
THE JAPANESE
PEOPLE COMPLIED
WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

A black and white photograph of a large crowd of people, some holding flags and banners, appearing to be in a protest or demonstration.

IN FACT,
THERE ARE AN
OVERWHELMING
NUMBER OF
AUTHORITARIAN,
POLICE-STATE
COUNTRIES
GOVERNED BY
PRIVILEGED
RULING
CLASSES.

THERE
AREN'T MANY
COUNTRIES
WILLING TO
ADOPT
EUROPEAN-
AMERICAN STYLE
FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY,
ESPECIALLY
NOWADAYS.

A black and white illustration showing a group of people in Western-style clothing, including a man in a suit and a woman in a dress, in a social setting.

JAPAN EMBRACED
WESTERNIZATION
WITHOUT RESERVE
IN THE MEIJI
REFORMATION,
CONVERTING TO
WESTERN VALUES
VIRTUALLY
OVERNIGHT. IT
WAS THIS KIND OF
OPTIMISM THAT
WORKED TO THE
COUNTRY'S
TREMENDOUS
ECONOMIC
ADVANTAGE.

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
CONSUMERS ARE
FOUND IN AMERICA
AND EUROPE.
JAPAN HAS THE
SAME KIND OF
SOCIAL SYSTEM,
WHICH MADE
THINGS EASY
FOR DOING
BUSINESS.



IN
ADDITION,
ANOTHER LUCKY
FACTOR WAS
THE ABSENCE
OF RIVALING
COUNTRIES
WAGING
PRICE WARS.

JAPAN HAD
ALL ITS ECONOMIC
DUCKS IN A ROW!
NO DISPUTES WITH
NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES,
YOUNG LABORERS
GATHERED
IN HIGHLY
CONCENTRATED
AREAS, THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY...



MEETING
ALL THE
CONDITIONS
NECESSARY
FOR SUCCESS
IS NOTHING
BUT LUCK.
THAT'S THE
"FATE OF THE
NATION," ALL
RIGHT.



THAT'S
TRUE, I DON'T
THINK JAPAN
WOULD HAVE
SUCCEEDED
IF ANY OF
THOSE
FACTORS
HAD BEEN
MISSING.



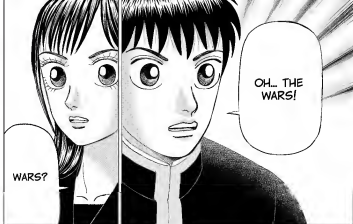
...ANOTHER
GREAT
FACTOR OF
FATE?

THERE
WAS...



THERE
WAS
ANOTHER
GREAT
FACTOR
OF
FATE.

BUT
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.





THOUGH ON
THE OUTSIDE IT
LOOKED LIKE A CIVIL
WAR BETWEEN
SOUTHERN AND
NORTHERN KOREANS,
IT WAS ACTUALLY A
U.S.-SOVIET WAR BY
PROXY. JAPAN
WAS AMERICA'S
FRONTLINE
BASE.

FIVE YEARS
AFTER WORLD
WAR II, A WAR
BROKE OUT
THAT DIVIDED
THE KOREAN
PENINSULA IN
HALF.



HISTORY
CLEARLY
SHOWS WHAT
A HUGE BOOST
THOSE THREE
YEARS WERE
TO JAPAN'S
INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTIVITY.

DURING THE
THREE YEARS
OF WAR, JAPAN'S
INDUSTRIES WENT
FULL BORE
SUPPLYING THE
U.S. WITH WEAPONS,
AMMUNITION,
AND OTHER
MATERIALS.



IT WAS TRULY
LUCKY FOR
JAPAN THAT AN
UNEXPECTED WAR
BROKE OUT IN A
NEIGHBORING
COUNTRY.
WE HIT THE
JACKPOT AFTER
HAVING LOST
EVERYTHING.

I
REALIZE IT'S
ARROGANT
FOR ME TO
SAY THIS,
BUT...



THAT
PAVED THE
WAY TO
JAPAN'S
INDUSTRI-
ALIZATION.



...JAPAN HAD
EXPERIENCE
FROM
OTHER
WARS, WHICH
ALSO
WORKED
TO ITS
ADVANTAGE.

ALSO...



IT'S NO
EXAGGERATION
TO SAY THAT
MOST OF THE
TECHNOLOGY
BEHIND TODAY'S
INDUSTRIAL
GOODS CAME
FROM THE
MUNITIONS
INDUSTRY.

MANY GREAT
WARS OCCURRED
BETWEEN THE
LATTER HALF OF
THE 1800S
THROUGH THE
EARLY HALF OF
THE 1900S.



THERE'S NO
MISTAKE THAT THE
TECHNOLOGY
THAT WENT
INTO BUILDING
BOMBERS AND
BATTLESHIPS
CAME TO BE
USED LATER IN
MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRIES.

IN ALL
OF ASIA,
JAPAN WAS
THE SOLE
PROVIDER OF
WEAPONS.



WHAT HAPPENED
WAS SIMPLICITY ITSELF.
JAPAN'S TECHNOLOGICAL
PROWESS HAD BEEN
HONED FROM UNDER-
GOING SO MANY WARS.
WHEN THE WARS ENDED,
OUTSTANDING ENGINEERS
MOVED FROM THE
MUNITIONS INDUSTRY TO
DOMESTIC ENTERPRISES;
THUS WEAPONS
TRANSFORMED INTO
AUTOMOBILES AND
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

PEOPLE
BELIEVE THAT
JAPAN ROSE
FROM THE ASHES
AFTER THE WAR
AND DEVELOPED
INTO A
WORLD-CLASS
MANUFACTURING
AND EXPORTING
NATION. BUT
THAT IS NOT
THE CASE.



WHEN
YOU
LOOK
AT IT
THAT
WAY...

...WAR
ISN'T SO
BAD.



...THE MAN
WHO INITIATED
THE PACIFIC WAR!
HE'S ALIVE
AGAIN!

IT'S THE
GHOST OF
RYUGORO...





THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S THE MOST FOOLISH OF ALL HUMAN ACTIONS.

TRUE...



THERE'S NOTHING MORE TRAGIC THAN THAT.

WAR IS ABSOLUTELY UNFORTUNATE. HUMAN LIVES ARE LOST.



SURE, THEY MADE EFFORTS. BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND...

...WE ALL NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LUCKY BREAKS OUR COUNTRY HAD.



YOU CAN LEARN THIS FACT FROM HISTORY.

BUT THE FACT REMAINS, THE WARS CONTRIBUTED TO JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS.



PEOPLE SHOULD LEARN THAT, SO THEY UNDERSTAND THAT JAPAN'S ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS NOT SOLELY DUE TO PEOPLE'S EFFORTS.

THAT'S TRUE.



...WHICH ASPECTS WERE EFFORT, AND WHICH WERE PURE LUCK.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO PROPERLY ANALYZE...



BUT THAT'S
THE KIND OF
HUBRIS THAT
ROBS PEOPLE
OF THEIR ABILITY
TO ADAPT TO
CHANGES; THEY
BECOME
RESISTANT TO
NEW SYSTEMS.



INDEED,
PEOPLE ARE
PRONE TO
BELIEVE THEIR
SUCCESSSES
ARE DUE
TO THEIR
EFFORTS.



BUT IT'S PAR
FOR THE COURSE.
OUT OF TEN
MATCHES, IT'S NO
SURPRISE THAT A
SINGLE MATCH
WOULD BE WON
BY FLUKE. YET
WE BOAST AS IF
WE'RE A FIRST-RATE
CONTENDER IN
THE WORLD OF
SOCCER.

FOR EXAMPLE,
JAPAN BEAT BRAZIL
IN A SOCCER MATCH
ONCE... ONLY ONCE...
AND THEY'VE
LABELED THE EVENT
"THE MIRACLE IN
MIAMI." THEY'RE
STILL DRUNK
FROM VICTORY.



BUT THE MAIN
REASONS FOR
JAPAN'S VICTORY
WERE THAT THERE
WEREN'T MANY
PLAYERS IN THE
FIELD, PLUS THEY
WERE ABLE TO
WIELD THE WEAPON
OF A LOW YEN
EXCHANGE
RATE.

DURING ITS
PHASE OF RAPID
GROWTH, JAPAN'S
MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRIES
CORNERED
THE WORLD
MARKET.



JAPANESE
BUSINESSES
MUST LEARN
TO DISCREETLY
ANALYZE AND
HUMBLY
LEARN ABOUT
EXTERNAL
FACTORS.

SUCCESS
AND LUCK
GO
HAND-IN-
HAND.



OUR
SHARE WILL
BE ROBBED BY
SEMI-DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, AND
WE WILL BE
FORCED OUT OF
THE MARKET.
THAT'S THE FATE
OF DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES.

SOON IT
WILL BECOME
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR JAPAN
TO SUSTAIN
PRODUCTION
OF CONSUMER
GOODS.



WILL THEY CLING TO FORMER GLORIES, ENGAGING IN INTENSELY WASTEFUL BATTLES AGAINST MANUFACTURERS OF SEMI-DEVELOPED NATIONS, AND EVENTUALLY GO EXTINCT?

WHAT WILL BECOME OF JAPANESE BUSINESSES THEN?



WILL WE RISE TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD LIKE THEY DID, BY DEVELOPING OUR OWN UNIQUE FIELDS OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY?

OR WILL THEY BECOME LIKE GENERAL ELECTRIC IN AMERICA, WHO SOLD ITS TELEVISION BUSINESS AND TURNED TO HEALTH CARE AND FINANCIAL INDUSTRIES?



WE MUST DO SO WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME LUCK REMAINING.

WE MUST MAKE OUR DECISION SOON AND TAKE ACTION.



IN FACT,
WE SHOULD
CALL IT
"CHANCE"
INSTEAD.

IT
DOES.



DOES
JAPAN STILL
HAVE LUCK
REMAINING?



AS A
RESULT, WE'LL
BE THE FIRST
TO EXPERIMENT
WITH SYSTEMS
AND PRODUCTS
DESIGNED TO
ACCOMMODATE
OUR
SITUATION.

SOON JAPAN
WILL BECOME
THE WORLD'S
FIRST SOCIETY
COMPRISED
PRIMARILY OF
ELDERLY
FOLKS.



IF OUR
PRODUCTS AND
SERVICES CAN
BE SOLD TO
COUNTRIES WHO
ARE ALSO LIKELY
TO ENCOUNTER THE
AGING-POPULATION
PHENOMENON, WE
MIGHT REAP GREAT
PROFITS; WE COULD
BECOME WORLD
LEADERS.



IF
BUSINESSES
BECOME
SUCCESSFUL
IN THOSE
FIELDS, OUR
BUSINESSES
WILL SET THE
WORLD'S
STANDARD.



WE ARE
DEPENDING
ON YOUR
HELP.

THAT'S WHAT
INVESTMENTS
ARE FOR, TO
BACK THOSE
WHO WILL
PAVE THAT
PATH FOR
US.



NOW IS
THE TIME TO
FOLLOW THE
LEAD OF OUR
PREDECESSORS,
AND TURN
ADVERSITY INTO
OPPORTUNITY!



I AM
FULLY AWARE
OF HOW
ADVANCED
AND DIFFICULT
VENTURE
INVESTMENT
IS.



YOU STILL
HAVE TIME,
SO PROCEED
CAREFULLY; I
WILL HAVE NO
QUALMS IF
YOU PRODUCE
SOLID
RESULTS.

THE EXPIRATION
OF THE
AGREEMENT I
HAVE WITH YOU,
ZAIZEN-KUN, IS
SIX YEARS FROM
NOW, AFTER YOU
GRADUATE.
THERE'S NO NEED
TO SWEAT IT.



MIYUKI,
IT'S TIME
LET'S GO
BACK TO
TOKYO.



THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH.



JUST
DO
YOUR
BEST.

O...
OKAY.



I'M
GOING
TO READ
THE SIGNS
OF THE
TIMES,
AND MAKE
INVESTMENTS
BY
ENVISIONING
THE
FUTURE.



I SURVIVED
THIS ROUND, BUT
I'D BETTER HAVE
SOME RESULTS
FOR HIM NEXT
TIME.



...100
YEARS
FROM
NOW!

I'LL BE LIKE
RYUGORO,
DOING IT FOR
THE SAKE OF
JAPAN'S
FUTURE.